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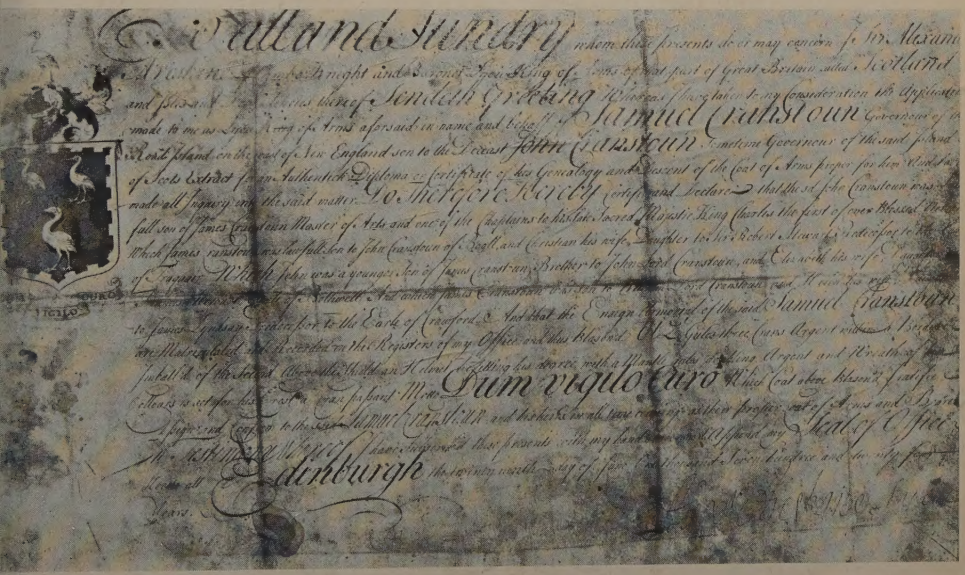

Patent of Arms issued in 1724 to Samuel Cranston, Governor of Rhode Island

From original in the Society's library.

Issued Quarterly

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RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

Vol. XX April, 1927 No. 2

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Warwick Proprietors' Divisions

BY HAROLD R. CURTIS

In the July, 1919, issue of the *Collections* appeared an article by the writer entitled "The Tenement on Conimicut." Since that time the first book of Warwick Records has been restored by the Emery process, and a year ago its printing and distribution were authorized by resolution of the General Assembly. In the article mentioned the curious history of one of the proprietary shares in Warwick was traced, but only in a general way was reference made to the subject of Warwick land divisions. It was said:

"The original Shawomet purchase included all the territory between a line drawn from Occupasnetuxet Cove directly west twenty miles to what is now the Connecticut line and a line extended from the southerly end of Warwick Neck and parallel to the former. The easterly portion of this tract exclusive of Warwick Neck, and extending generally as far west as and including the present village of Apponaug, was set apart and denominated 'the four miles common.' By the payment of twelve

shillings into the common treasury, and a favorable vote of admission by 'papers or beans', an applicant became what was termed an 'Inhabitant'. He received a home lot of six acres and the right to share equally with all the other proprietors of 'the four miles common.' This undivided share was sometimes called a 'township'. The total number of such proprietors was fifty-one. On the other hand, a full right in the entire purchase was granted to such persons as might be duly admitted and who should contribute ten pounds to the common fund. This select company was composed of seventeen 'Purchasers'."

The original purchasers of the tract of land which comprised the greater part of the old town of Warwick, now the present towns of Warwick, West Warwick and Coventry, adopted at the settlement certain rules of government and procedure which they called "Towne Orders." The second order reads as follows: "That for the Towne proper to all Inhabitants is to bee from ye front fence of the Neck into the Coontrie fower miles & that no pt of this Common shalbe aproproated to anny (but) by the major pt of all ye Inhabitants and that every Inhabitant is to have six akers to his house lott for wh hee is to pay to ye Tresery 12s & this 4 miles Common is anexed to every mans lot."[1]

For the first several decades of the town's history, the town meeting furnished the medium not only for the transaction of such business as is still carried on in town meetings, but also for the admission of new "inhabitants" and the allotment of land to those entitled thereto. Thus we find the early records of the town meetings filled with grants of land of which the following is an example. "Ord. 8. That Mr. Greens lott is to runn from the Comon fence of Conimecok downe to the gully next beyond the Creek which is at his front, and hee to have the point of land within his fence upon consideration hee is to fence his land round sufitiently and to be so fenced by the time yt the front in general is fenced and that there is to bee a foot path through it to Conimecok"[2]

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[1]Warwick Records, I:75.
[2]Ibid, p. 77.

Similarly, the bounds of each "inhabitant's" six acre house lot are set forth in the records, and as each new freeman was admitted to the town, a grant of a six acre lot, together with an undivided interest in the Four Miles Common, was made to him. And from time to time, upon the payment of additional money, certain additional grants were made to individuals. Prior to the opening years of the eighteenth century very little progress had been made in the division of the common lands. Four divisions only took place prior to 1700, and were of small lots in widely separated sections, with the exception of the Meshanticut division.

On March 4, 1650, it was "Ordred that the land within the fence of Quinimicote to the narrow Cutt shalbee laid out to every man that hath right there. Ordred that this land at Quinimicote bee devided by the layers out to every man betwixt this and the next towne meetinge and the fence also."[3] The allotment was made and twenty-eight lots were drawn,[4] indicating that in 1650 there were that number of "inhabitants" in the town, who were entitled to share in the division of the common land. No plat has been discovered showing this division. It is fairly certain that the location of the lots was on what is now known as Conimicut Point.

No further divisions were made until 1662, when the town meeting voted on August 12th as follows: "Ordred yt Evry mans Share of Meddow at Patowomet and papepieset alias Toskeunk be Recorded by ye Clarke in ye Towne Bocke * * ".[5] The drawings for these divisions indicate thirty-seven lots in each division,[6] showing that in twelve years the number of proprietors' shares had increased by nine. It is believed that no plats of these divisions have been preserved. The Toskeunk division was in the vicinity of the present village of Pontiac, and the Potowomut division was on the northerly shore of the neck where the south line of the Shawomet purchase cut across Potowomet Neck. On March 24, 1673, there was recorded a

[3]Ibid, p. 92.
[4]Ibid, p. 274.
[5]Ibid, p. 193.
[6]Ibid, p. 408-9.

return of the town surveyors laying out sixteen shares of meadow land at Toskeunk, describing the lots by metes and bounds.[7] It is believed that this was a part of the proceedings under the division of 1662.

Almost from the beginning of the town there were disputes between the proprietors of the Four Miles Common and the Purchasers who had reserved to themselves the balance of the original purchase west to the Connecticut line. The learned author of an article entitled "An Offer of Sale by the Proprietors of Warwick in 1652" in the *Narragansett Historical Register,* Volume II, page 233, was evidently unaware of the existence of two distinct classes of proprietors, the "Purchasers" and the "Inhabitants." He offers various possible explanations for the offer of Samuel Gorton and several of his associates to sell out their interests and remove from the town, and is at a loss to determine to whom the offer was directed. From our study of the situation, we believe that the offer was made to the proprietors of the Four Miles Common. One of the chief sources of irritation between the two classes of proprietors had always been the determination of the exact limits of the Common.

On May 25, 1663, it was "Ordred yt 20 men of ye Inhabitants of this Towne of Warwick shall goe forthwith to sett up ye fence in ye place where it was formerly sett up from ye head of Coave goeing to Aponachack (Apponaug) and rainging downe to ye fresh river (Pawtuxet) to toeskeuncke (Pontiac) ye 27 of this Instant Maye."[8] On January 16, 1665/6, was initiated the first serious attempt to delimit the Four Miles Common by peaceful agreement, as on that date the town meeting voted "That Mr. John Wickes, senior and Mr. James Green (erasure) in the behalfe of ye purchasers of the (erasure) towne of Warwicke And Mr. Edmund Calverly & Amos Westcott in behalf of ye townsmen of Warwick doe one or before the last of February Next Runn the Lynne of ye towne bounds of Warwick Acording to A former Grant of ye perchasers to this towne And that one

[7]Warwick Records, A-2:152.
[8]Warwick Records, I:197.

day before ye said Lyne is run they Cause ye drum to beat through the towne to ye end that all ye inhabitants whoe ar willing may goe along with them."[9] "Ye towne bounds" referred to in the foregoing were the bounds of the Four Miles Common.

Nothing definite seems to have been accomplished by this committee, but six years later we find the following record: "At a Towne meeting ye 16th of January 1671 or 72. About setting ye towne bounds by ye purchasers of Mishawomett. Touching ye towne bounds ther hath this towne meeting beene some Agitation betwixt the purchasers & ye townsmen that ar not purchasers about the running of ye lyne but they not Agreeing it was Left And so ye towne meeting was dissolved."[10] On October 17, 1672, a committee was appointed, consisting of Samuel Gorton, John Greene and Randall Houlden, in behalf of the Purchasers, and Samuel Stafford, Job Almy and Moses Lippitt, in behalf of the "Town," easily the leading citizens.[11]

On November 14th, the committee reported that it had been unable to agree, but met again on December 9th to receive a proposal from Gorton, Greene and Houlden, representing the Purchasers, that the Four Miles Common should "begin at the east bounds of our Purchase videlicet as it bears from Ocuppassuatuxet point to the front fence that was formerly—Thomas Thornicrafts[12] and now Job Almys and from each bounder fower miles into the Countrie Warwicke Necke excepted to run the breadth of the Purchase."[13] Finally, on March 25, 1673, the Purchasers proposed definite bounds, and on March 29th, over one-half of the proprietors signed the following acceptance:

"Warwicke this 29th of March 1673. Whereas the Purchasers of Warwicke by an instrument or graunt under their handes bearinge date March the 25th 1673 for the issuinge of all disputes and clearinge of matters have graunted that the Townshippe of Warwicke shall bee proper to all Inhabitantes in full of the first graunt videlicet bounded by the Creeke beginninge

[9]Ibid, p. 223.
[10]Warwick Records, A-2:75.
[11]Ibid, p. 92.
[12]R. I. Hist. Soc'y Coll., XII:65.
[13]Warner Papers, I:21, No. 42.

at Richard Carders Lott southeasterly to the mouth therofe, and thence bounded south westerly by Coeeset Bay up to Aponante or Coeeset broke where the sea comonly flowes and from thence upon a straight line to run to the mouth of Moshantatut brooke where it runes into Patuxet river and so bounded by that river of Moshantatut up streame untill it meet with the North line of the Grand purchase and so to bee bounded Northerly by the sayd North line downe to the sea, and Easterly by the sea or salt water and over agst Warwicke Necke by the front fence & lotts the sayd Necke excepted,

"Wee say wee the rest of the Inhabitantes of this Towne of Warwicke for the issuinge of all disputes and that amity may bee preserved amongst us doe accept and assent thereunto, and in testimomy thereofe doe subscribe our names desiringe the sayd graunt may bee recorded together with so much of Potaomet Necke as falles within the south line."[14]

On April 3, 1673, the town meeting accepted and ratified the agreement and voted "that ye said paper under ye said purchasers hands shall be placed to record which is done accordingly & is fyled up in ye office amongst ye wills of ye dead."[15] Although the controversy of twenty years standing between the purchasers and proprietors was thus settled, the proprietors were immediately plunged into litigation with William Harris and the Pawtuxet proprietors concerning the title to the Meshanticut lands lying north of the Pawtuxet River, which was not to be settled until the following century.[16]

Before passing to a consideration of the successive divisions of the Four Miles Common, some reference is necessary to the growth and development of the proprietors' organization. In accordance with the "town orders" already referred to, "inhabitants" were admitted into the town fellowship and land partnership from time to time by a vote of the town and the payment of the required sum into the common treasury. Two lists of proprietors are found in the first record book. At page 79 is a list

[14]Ibid, I:22, No. 44.
[15]Warwick Records, A-2:102.
[16]See R. I. Hist. Soc'y Coll., X.

entitled "Inhabitants receaved in order as they came first," commencing with the name of Rufus Barton and ending with that of John Hayden. Eleven others were added before further additions to the propriety were prohibited in 1677. The other list at page 73 is especially valuable because it contains the original signatures of the early settlers of the town. Many of them, however, never became proprietors of the common lands. Facsimile reproductions of these signatures are given in the Society's Publications (N. S.), IV:107, accompanied by historical and genealogical sketches of the persons whose signatures are shown.

Scattered through the records from 1648 to 1677 are town meeting votes admitting persons as "inhabitants" or "townsmen" and granting them a six acre home lot and a "township," as the proprietary share came to be called. The various divisions of small lots prior to 1677 indicate the number of proprietors at the time of each division. Thus in 1650 there were twenty-eight proprietors when the Conimicut division was made. In 1662, at the time of the Toskeunk and Potowomut divisions, the number of the proprietors had increased to thirty-seven. Seven years later, on March 25, 1669, and about twenty-five years after the settlement of the town, John Gorton was admitted as an "inhabitant" and granted a township right.[17] No record has been found of any additions to the number of the proprietors after that date. On January 18, 1677, the town meeting "Ordered that hence forward no more towneships shall be graunted without an unanimous consent of every freeman within this Towne of Warwick any former order to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding."[18]

On January 20, 1679/80, the town meeting "Ordered that the Clarke of the towne be desired to make search into the Towne Records and bring in an account how many towneships there be in this towne the next towne meeting."[19] On February 27, 1679/80, was recorded a list entitled "Towne Ships which are

[17]Warwick Records, A-2:16.
[18]Ibid, p. 160.
[19]Ibid, p. 187.

aproved on in this towne" in which appeared fifty-one names.[20] They have been reproduced in the table accompanying this paper, and were used as the basis for the drawings and allotments of the commons for the next seventy years.

On the same date was adopted the following: "Ordered that all such Towneships as are now aproved and confirmed by the towne are freed and acquitted for ever hereafter from any former tye or obligation concearning building any former order to the contrary notwithstanding and the towne Clarke is ordered to place them upon Reccord and shall be payd by a rate levied upon the towneships for soe doing, onely the Mill Lands and Conimiquet to remain under the same Ingagement as formerly ordered."[21] This resolution evidently repealed the ancient "town order" No. 7 "That whomsoever is granted a lot if hee doe not fence and build a dwelling house upon it within 6 months or in forwardness thereto, for ye neglect his lot is to returne to ye Towne to dispose of."[22]

It will be noted, however, that two of the proprietary shares were not relieved of the burdens imposed upon them at the time of the original grant. Prior to 1650, there was granted to Thomas Thornicraft a "towneship" which became later known as the "Tenement on Conimicut," "upon condition as followeth that is that he shall maintaine a sufficient fence from upon his front as also make a sufficient fence from highwater marke to lowe water marke * * * and this to bee the Tenure of this houslot upon which grant is to him or his successors."[23] Job Almy later became the owner of this lot and the township annexed thereto, and apparently tried to get rid of the burdensome tenure under which the same was held, as we find the following town meeting record under date of January 16, 1665/6: "That wheras Jobe Aylmey moved to have the tenneur of his land altered from ye howld formerly granted to Thomas Thornicraft & his sucksesors unto free hould The townes Answer is

[20]Ibid, p. 201.
[21]Ibid, p. 189.
[22]Warwick Records, I:75.
[23]R. I. Hist. Soc'y Coll., XII:65.

that they cannot Alter ye teneure of that land." [24] And again, in 1680, as noted above, the town meeting refused to remove the burden from the owner of this proprietor's share of "makinge and maintayninge of a water fence to secure Quinnimicoke and Warwicke Necke."

As we have already seen, the agreement of 1673 between the Purchasers and Proprietors delimiting the Four Miles Common awarded to the latter the lands lying between the Pawtuxet River and the north line of the Grand Purchase as far west as the Meshanticut Brook, embracing the territory between the present villages of Pontiac, Oaklawn and Natick. About a year after the action of the town meeting closing the membership of the proprietors' organization, the first division among the full number of fifty-one proprietors was made, and related to the lands north of the Pawtuxet River then in litigation with William Harris and his partners. We note on the records the following vote:

"At a Towne Meeting this 31th day of March 1681, Mr. Samuell Gorton Moderator the ocation is to draw Lotts for their shares of meddow Lately Layd out upon the north side of Pautuxit River. Ordered by reason that seaverall persons concearned beinge absent from this meeting and Likewise to prevent other contentions that may arise therefore it is agreed and concluded that Thomas Stafford be apointed to draw all the Lotts in behalf of all the towne and that as hee doth draw them they shall bee entered upon Reccord according as the townships stands upon record."[25] Then follow the numbered lots as drawn by the several proprietors. These have been entered in the tabulation accompanying this paper. No plat of this division has been found. On March 8, 1682, a Potowomut division was ordered, but no list of lots drawn is given on the record.

Although the proprietors continued to grant small parcels of land to different members of their organization from time to time in various parts of the Four Miles Common, it was not until early in the eighteenth century that the systematic division of the

[24] Warwick Records, I:225.
[25] Warwick Records, A-1:5.

territory was commenced. Shortly before this, the proprietors seem to have established an organization separate and distinct from the town meeting. The last town meeting of which a record has been found where action was taken relative to the disposal of land was held on June 19, 1701,[26] and the first distinct proprietors' meeting of which there is a record was held on February 22, 1708/9.[27] Some time between the above dates the proprietors began to meet separately from the general town meeting. From then on they kept records of their own, only fragments of which, however, have been preserved. Miscellaneous excerpts from these records are to be found scattered through the collection known as the Warner Papers, on file in the Society's Cabinet, and occasionally an important resolution will be found recorded in the land evidence records in the Warwick Town Clerk's office. The plats of the various divisions on file in both places in many instances contain references to action by the proprietors' organization.

As a preliminary to the division of the Commons, it became necessary at the outset to determine what land had been previously granted to the various proprietors during the preceding three-quarters of a century. Accordingly, Malachy Rhodes was employed as a surveyor to bound out such land. The plat prepared by him, bearing date March 24, 1712/3, furnishes invaluable data as to the location of land in Old Warwick previously granted and the owners thereof at that time. There are several copies on file in the Cabinet.[28] Upon one of the copies is inscribed the following: "A plat of the Town of Warwick and of the highways along the main street. The main street is six rods wide in the narrowest place, the other ways four rods wide. Drawn this 24th day of March, 1712/3, by me Malachy Roads Surveyor. Voted This plat is confirmed by the Proprietors at their meeting the 21st of December 1714, held upon adjournment." This plat may be superimposed upon the plat of the Plain Land Division, and a complete picture obtained of all land

[26]Ibid, p. 35.
[27]Ibid, p. 90.
[28]R. I. Maps, XX:25-6; X:1-4; 21-2; also Drawer 8.

titles in the eastern part of the town north of the road leading from Conimicut to Apponaug.

The first important division of the Four Miles Common was the Nausauket Division, adopted January 10, 1717/8. The land embraced extended from Tusketucket at the head of Brush Neck Cove westerly to Apponaug Village bounded on the north by the highway leading from Old Warwick to Apponaug and on the south by Cowesett Bay, and included the present communities of Buttonwoods, Nausauket and Cedar Tree Point. A copy of the plat in the Cabinet[29] contains the following. "This is a plat of the land to the southard of a straight line from Tusketucket to Sweet's Meadow drawn by me John Warner surveyor Warwick Jany 10, 1717—The above said plat is accepted by the proprietors the day & year above said as attest John Wickes Clerk of the pps." The names of the proprietors are given on each lot on the plat.[30]

The next division was the Horseneck Division embracing the present village of Oakland Beach and the land as far north as the main highway leading to Apponaug. No plat has been discovered in the Cabinet, but there is a copy in the Town Clerk's office in Warwick whereon is inscribed "A true plat Errors Excepted of part of the propriators Common belonging to the towne of Warwicke all to the Southward of the highway that leads from the west end of the towne to tusketucket according to the plat made this 30 day of January 1726/7 by me John Warner Survayer. Voted and accepted by the propriators of Warwicke this 30 day of January 1726/7. As Attest John Warner Clarke of said propriators." The drawing of lots on this division is to be found in Warner Papers, II:25, No. 424.

About ten years before the final division of land in the Horseneck, the proprietors adopted the very curious expedient of making a temporary allotment of land in the same location for the purpose of permitting the proprietors to cut timber. On February 20, 1716/7, was adopted the report of a committee previously appointed which provided that this land "be

[29]R. I. Maps, XX:34-6.
[30]Ibid.

improved no way but by ye majr part of sd Propriators in manner of a commond feld (common field) Except ye timber which Every Man may improve as he sees cause for *four years* and at ye Expiration of sd four years sd Devision both Land (and) timber to be Laid Down to ye common againe."[31] No copy of any plat has been found but the drawing of the lots is given in Warner Papers I: 111, No. 246. They are not given in the accompanying tabulation as the division was a temporary one and entirely supplanted by the Horseneck Division of 1726/7.

Then follow the two big divisions of land. On January 18, 1725/6, the proprietors appointed a committee to "modell the devitions of their Common lands," and this committee rendered a report dated January 25th, recommending the reservation of certain highways and watering places, and further "that a straight line be run from tusketucket brook a little westerly of the waiding place about ten rods to Marshepoug (Warwick) pond where the brook runeth out of said pond, and so along said pond to the head thereof where the brook runeth into said pond: and so up said brook until it meet with the north line of the purchase * ."[32] This marked the division line between the Lower or Plain Land Division on the east and the Timber Land Division on the west.

The Timber Land Division was the largest by far of all the proprietors' division, and extended westerly from Warwick Pond to the limits of the Four Miles Common bounded on the south by the road leading from Old Warwick to Apponaug, and on the north by the Occupasnetuxet Road and the extension thereof westerly to the Pawtuxet River. No plat has been found in the Cabinet, but there are an original plat and a cloth tracing thereof in the Town Clerk's office. On the same is indorsed the following: "At a proprietors meeting held the 20th day of April, 1729 this plat was unanimously adopted being a propriators timber land devision as attest John Warner Clerk of said propriators." The drawing of lots on this division may be found in Warner Papers, II:49, No. 476.

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[31]Warner Papers, I:112, No. 427.
[32]Warner Papers, II:43, No. 463.

The Lower or Plain Land Division extended easterly from Warwick Pond to Narragansett Bay, bounded on the south by the road leading from Old Warwick to Apponaug and on the north by the Occupasnetuxet Road, embracing the present villages of Hoxie, Riverdale, Conimicut, Shawomet and part of Old Warwick. There are several copies of the plat showing this division in the Cabinet.[33] On this plat is indorsed the following: "This is a plat of the plain land or lower devition belonging to the propriators of Warwick made and presented by the Commetee and Survayor to said proprietors at there meeting held the ninth day of Aprill 1731 As attest John Warner Clarke of said propriators." The drawing of lots on this division may be found in Warner Papers, II:24, No. 423.

The Apponaug Division comprised practically the present limits of that village extending along the shores of the cove and adjoining a portion of the Timberland Division on the north. There is a plat of this division in the Cabinet entitled: "A Plot of a certain piece of land laid out to the proprietors of the four miles commons lying between Sweet's meadow and Apponaug Cove and was laid out by the help and assistance of the Committee appointed for the same the 17 day January 1735/6 per me Thos Rice Surveyor."[34] The drawing of lots on this division may be found in R. I. Maps, XX:36.

There is a large number of small lots shown on the plat in dotted lines at either end of the main plat, and below the inscription given above is a further endorsement reading: "The part in dotted lines is copied from a copy of a survey by John Warner dated Oct. 31, 1751. Copied from the original in the possession of Benjn Greene Esq. Warwick Neck By Geo. S. Greene Sept. 1830." These dotted lines are believed to indicate lots on the Wood Point Division, drawing of which may be found on a list shown on copy of plat entitled "A list of the proprietors devision of two small pieces of common lying in the four miles commons in Warwick in the County of Kent, etc at the place called Apponake bridge and at wood point agreeable to a plat

[33]R. I. Maps, X:9-12, 17-20; Warner Papers, II: No. 503.
[34]R. I. Maps, XX:34-6.

drawn by John (Warner) surveyor dated Oct 31, 1751 & signed by sd Warner."

There is an old, much discolored plat in the Warner Papers[35] which bears no title or other mark of identification. From the general outline of the plat, it is assumed that this represents the First and Second Points Division, lying between Warwick Cove and the road from Old Warwick to Apponaug. The drawing of lots on this plat is probably the quite illegible and inaccurate list found in Warner Papers, No. 1816, V: 28.

As the foregoing plats of the various divisions are examined, it will be noted that certain spaces are left unnumbered and apparently unalloted. Evidently, to parcel out these vacant places, there was a final division shown on a plat in the Cabinet entitled. "A true plat errors excepted of sundry pieces of the proprietors land within the four miles called the four miles commons belonging to the town of Warwick May the 21, 1748. Made by me John Warner Surveyor. May 21, 1748. Voted this plat be accepted, pro teste Jere. Lippitt prop. clerk."[36] At the extreme right of the plat can be recognized a parcel of land at the bend of the main highway just east of the present location of the Shawomet Beach railroad station. In the middle of the plat is a parcel of land just north of the First and Second Points Plat and on the south side of the highway in Old Warwick. The old David Arnold Tavern, where, it is said, General Prescott was detained over night after his capture by Colonel Barton,[37] is located on this parcel of land. The plat also shows a school house lot. It is not possible for the writer positively to identify the location of the other parcels of land which were subdivided. The drawing of lots may be found in the Warner Papers, No. 638, II: 122.

In a proprietors' list, Warner Papers V: 43, No. 1869, may be found the key for the use of the plats and lists of drawings in the tracing of titles back to the propriety, for we find listed there the names of the owners in 1750 of the original shares or rights

[35]Ibid, IV:153, No. 1706.
[36]R. I. Maps, XXI:11-2.
[37]Field, Hist. of R. I., I:478.

in the propriety.[38] These shares, it will be noted, were always, from the first division of Conimicut lots in 1650 for the next hundred years down to the last division of small lots at Apponaug Bridge and Wood Point in 1751, denominated by the names of the original owners thereof. The accompanying tabulation contains a complete list of the major divisions arranged in order of the shares on the original records showing the lots by number drawn by each proprietary share in each division and the name of the owner of each share in or about 1750 when the last division was made. This list has been applied by the writer in tracing titles in many parts of the Four Miles Common and found to be substantially accurate. When used in connection with the Malachy Rhodes plat of March 24, 1712/3, a rather complete picture can be obtained of the source of all land titles in the eastern part of the town of Warwick.

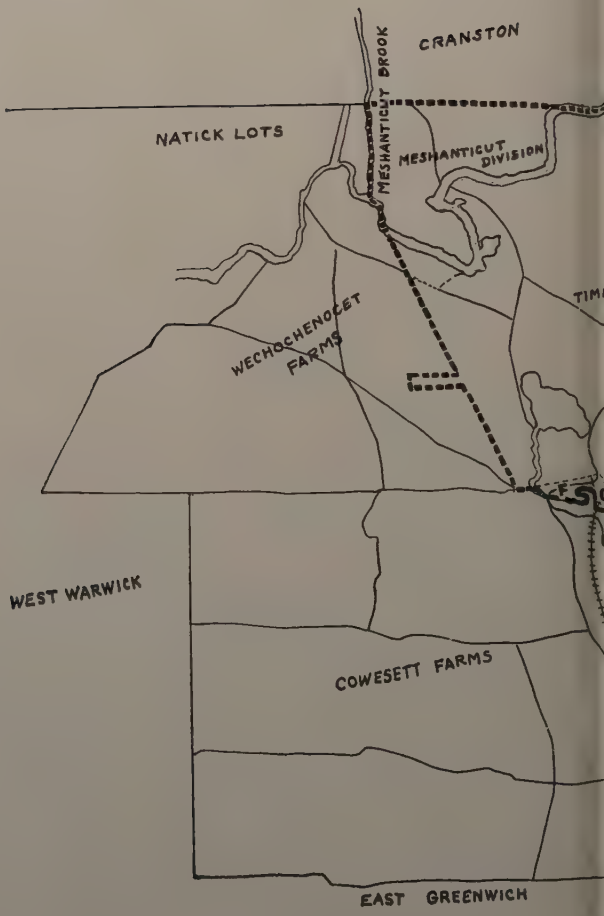
Titles to land in the balance of the original Shawomet purchase must be traced through the "Purchasers" organization. There were three divisions in the neck of "Mishaomet," south of the proprietors' Plain Land Division, and several divisions west and south of the Four Miles Common, such as the Cowesett Farms, Wechochanocet Farms, Natick Farms, Seven Men's Lands, Seventeen Men's Lands, etc. It is hoped at a later date to trace out more in detail these purchasers' divisions. The records, however, are not nearly as complete as in the case of the divisions of the Four Miles Common. There is a very interesting story connected with the division of the Potowomut lands which was carried out by a proprietary organization composed of most of the members of the Warwick Four Miles Common proprietors, yet with some significant differences.

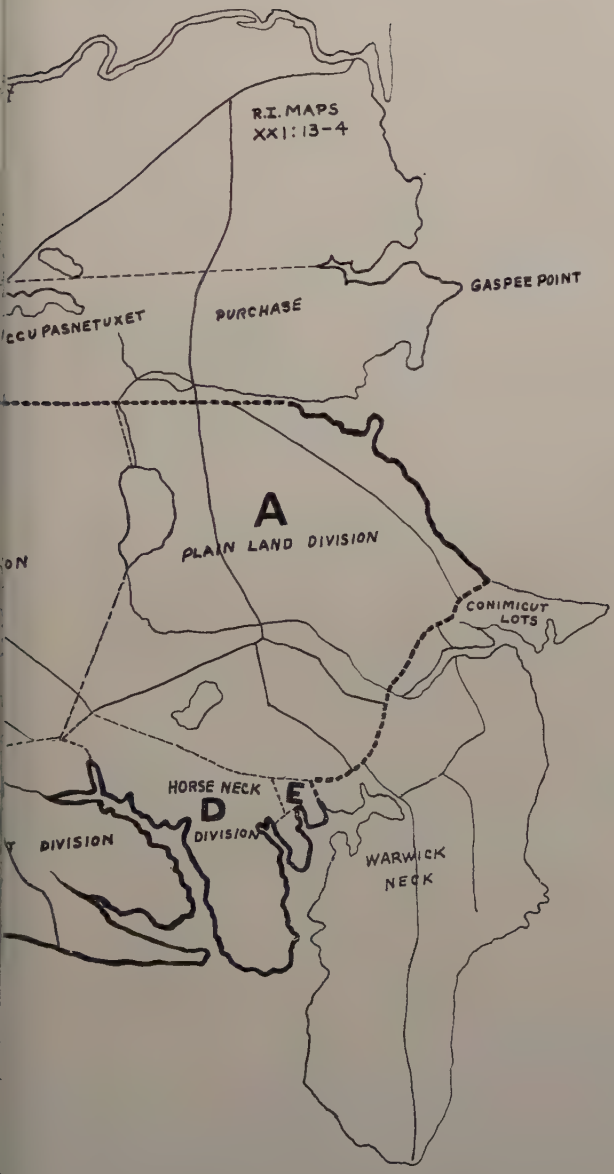
[38]List copied in Fuller Hist. of Warwick, p. 92.

Original Proprietors	Meshanticut	Plain Land	Horseneck	Timber Land	Last Division	Apponaug	1st and 2nd Points Upland Lots	1st and 2nd Points Shore Lots	Wood Point	Nausauket	Proprietors in 1750
Samuel Gorton	11	3	16	37	39	3	43	32	3	27	Sam'l & Hezekiah Gorton
John Wickes	48	2	26	46	41	1	35	43	20	10	John Wickes
Randall Holden	44	11	27	31	43	26	11	2	21	28	Randall Holden
Richard Carder	40	8	24	24	28	12	36	42	32	7	John Carder
Robert Potter	22	6	38	22	9	4	23	35	6	12	John Warner
John Greene, Sen'r.	36	12	7	12	35	31	4	12	33	35	Peter Greene
John Warner	10	34	5	21	21	32	38	40	1	16	John Warner
Francis Weston	47	37	31	16	11	14	8	6	51	36	Amos Stafford
Richard Waterman	50	27	15	51	31	51	22	34	44	39	John Waterman & Randall Holden
John More	45	40	10	49	26	10	32	47	7	44	Job Greene
Rufus Barton	46	22	1	38	47	20	51	45	43	5	Rufus & Benjamin Barton
Henry Townsend	49	5	14	48	8	49	7	7	40	29	John Holden & Benj. Greene
Christopher Unthank	29	43	43	36	50	50	12	1	45	3	John Holden
Ezekiel Holliman	16	28	23	29	46	28	44	35	29	22	John Warner
John Lippitt, Sen'r.	42	31	2	39	18	8	2	10	39	33	Moses Lippitt
Richard Townsend	31	41	37	28	19	45	40	38	30	20	John Low, Junior
Peter Greene	19	38	9	42	32	47	9	5	4	1	William, Elisha & Barlo Greene
Thos. Thornicraft	3	14	29	14	16	16	14	17	50	48	Amos Lockwood & Samuell Peirce
James Greene	43	15	42	6	23	29	42	33	31	30	Fones Greene
Thos. Greene	38	1	12	45	49	30	21	21	34	14	Benjamin Greene
Stukely Westcott	13	33	46	8	22	18	20	20	24	41	Zorobabel Westcott
John Smith	2	20	48	27	6	38	47	28	35	25	Thankful Collins, Robert Westgate & Tippitts
John Smith	27	17	28	23	14	17	46	55	49	32	Nathaniel Greene's children
Nicholas Hart	3(3)	44	25	41	7	42	27	29	38	47	John Wickes & Geo. Westgate
Walter Todd	20	50	36	17	10	39	30	49	47	19	John Knowles
John Cooke	21	18	18	4	25	33	28	27	18	15	Stephen Low
John Greene, Jr.	9	16	6	34	1	11	18	18	10	45	Sam'll Greene
Robert Westcott	28	13	40	44	42	46	48	20	13	18	Abraham & Amos Lockwood

Original Proprietors	Meshanticut	Plain Land	Horseneck	Timber Land	Last Division	Apponaug	1st and 2nd Points Upland Lots	1st and 2nd Points Shore Lots	Wood Point	Nausauket	Proprietors in 1750
John Sweet	26	9	19	7	27	6	26	30	42	34	Moses Lippitt
John Townsend	23	32	11	3	30	37	24	44	36	21	John Low & John Stafford
Peter Buzigut	24	35	3	33	24	27	19	19	9	26	John Warner
John Downing	14	25	44	26	36	34	3	11	16	37	John Low & William Utter
Edward Inman	37	29	47	43	13	25	5	13	19	23	John Greene, Son of Richard Greene
James Sweet	35	39	20	47	2	36	6	8	14	8	Richard Greene
Thomas Errington	25	48	49	2	44	24			41	40	Benjamin Greene
Amos Westcott	7	45	34	50	4	40	25	52	27	43	Benony Waterman
John Haydon	41	26	21	18	33	5	49	25	37	51	Amos Stafford
Mrs. Helmes	12	42	33	10	12	15	45	30	22	46	George Hazard, Jr.
William Burton	18	19	22	15	40	43	50	24	25	17	Benj. Gorton & William Greene
Thomas Hedger, Sen'r.	34	51	4	35	29	13	1	9	28	24	John Carder
Joseph Howard	1	10	13	40	45	41	15	16	8	31	John Budlong
William Eaton	8	30	39	25	20	2	10	4	23	42	Anthony Low
Peter Buzigut tenement	6	47	41	13	48	9	39	39	46	11	John Rice
Thomas Scranton, Sen'r.	1	21	51	5	5	35	34		17	4	Amos Stafford
John Coles	4	49	45	30	34	19	17	23	11	13	John Lippitt & Benj. Greene
John Gorton	39	24	8	19	3	48	41	37	48	50	Edward Gorton
Benj. Gorton	30	23	30	32	17	21	16	15	26	2	Thomas Stafford
Francis Gizbon	15	4	32	11	38	7	33	46	15	38	George Hazard, Jr.
The Mill Owners	32	7	17	9	51	22	32	41	2	6	Thomas Stafford
The tenement on Conimicut	5	36	35	20	37	23	13	3	5	49	Philip, Stephen & Ephraim Arnold
Walter Todd, second grant	17	46	50	1	15	44	29		12	9	Moses Lippitt & Joseph Stafford

WARWICK


CRANSTON
MESHANTICUT BROOK
NATICK LOTS
MESHANTICUT DIVISION
WECHOCHENOCET FARMS
WEST WARWICK
COWESETT FARMS
EAST GREENWICH



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nber Land
usauket

D. Horseneck
E. First and second points
F. Apponaug
G. Wood Point

Washington's Providence Letter

As supplementary to the account of "Washington's Visits to Providence" by Howard W. Preston, which was printed in the October, 1926, issue of our *Collections,* we now print a letter signed by George Washington at Providence, April 6, 1776. This letter, proving that Washington was in Providence on this date, is in the collection of Mr. Frederick S. Peck, and is as follows:

"Providence 6th April 1776.

"Sir

"I have given such instructions to Mr. Park the assistant Quarter Master General that if he pays a proper attention to them you will have Little trouble, with his department, however I woud reccommend to you to keep him attentive to his duty, and as it is probable he may want more money to defray the necessary expences, of the Army you will grant him a warrant, for what he may have occasion for. I shall Sett off this evening for Norwich, there is a Letter incloseing a Key for Mr. Austin, which I pray you will forward to him on receipt, there were a great number of Kettles & other articles belonging to the Camp Laying about Roxborough Church, your hinting to Mr. Parke that great Care shoud be had of these things, may be of service.

"I am

"Sir your most H. sert.

"Go. Washington

"Major General Ward."

Thomas Mount

By William Davis Miller

The life and death of Thomas Mount, deserter from two armies, rogue, burglar and jail breaker extraordinary, would probably long since have been forgotten save for the chance of fortune which caused his "confessions" to be published, and to be widely read.[1] Mount owes this posthumous fame to Rev. William Smith, one time rector of Trinity Church, Newport, who would appear to be well versed in the art of extracting voluntary confessions, penitence and remarkable facts from the condemned.[2]

He was born, by his own account, in Middletown, New Jersey, "some time, I believe, in 1764," the son of Samuel Mount and Sarah Dobbs. His life of crime, he soberly relates, was begun by playing truant from school and "upon Sundays especially was fond of doing mischief such as robbing orchards and spreading my wicked example among all the boys I could get acquainted with." (The hand of the Rev. William Smith is particularly heavy in this portion of the "Confession.")

It was, therefore, quite in keeping that a lad with these tendencies should, at the tender age of eleven, run to sea and make a grand tour of the West Indies. His seafaring life seemed to be mainly that of "jumping" one ship after another as suited his fancy. In 1775 he "listed" with one Captain Palmer, and under him saw service on the expedition to Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and Montreal. On his return, being sick, he was dismissed. Once again he enlisted and was again dismissed, this time "on account of my youth." The opportunities

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[1]Three editions, one printed in Rhode Island, two in Connecticut, are noted by Charles Evans in his "American Bibliography," vol. 8, p. 205.

[2]William Smith was rector of Trinity Church, Newport, 1790-1797. Immediately prior to this he was rector of St. Paul's, Wickford. Annals of Trinity Church, Newport, R. I., G. C. Mason, p. 192. Smith also compiled a treatise entitled, "The Convict's Visitor; or, Penitential Offices Consisting of Prayers, Lessons, and Meditations, with Suitable Devotions Before and at the Time of Execution."

Jon. Carter's Book December

THE

CONFESSION, &c.

OF

THOMAS MOUNT,

Who was executed at Little-Reſt, in the State of Rhode-Iſland, on Friday the 27th of May, 1791, for Burglary.

From original in library of Rhode Island Historical Society

offered by military service of that day to one of his talents led him to enlist for a third time, this enlistment being in the Continental Army. Again his service was short, for at Valley Ford (sic) he deserted and went over to the British. By this time he was an adept at thieving, and knew the rudiments of burglary, and his proficiency had the resulting effect of fear of detection. He, therefore, deserted the British and "patriotically" returned to the American forces.

Mount soon tired of the army, and returned to the sea, where he made a livelihood by securing advance pay, jumping ship, and signing up again on another vessel with more advance pay—then another ship. His last ship appears to have been a prison ship. This he jumped with dexterity, but no advance pay. "Hardened by the escapes I had made, I determined to double my diligence and if possible, to arrive at the head of my profession; accordingly next stole a watch." From this mile stone on the path of his career, his narrative is, in fact, an inventory of thefts committed and jails broken covering a period of a dozen odd years and as many colonies. It is regretted that this account does not show Mount to have had humour even of the rougher sort; however, the blame for this may be on the censorship of William Smith.

His last crime, for which he paid with his life, is told in his own words:

"Next night Stanton, Williams and I set off to break into Joseph Potter's store; I broke open a mill and took a crowbar out of it, and went to the door and broke it, and we all three went in, I first, and they following. Being most forward in this business, I lighted a candle and handed down the goods, about seven hundred dollars worth, and some money two or three dollars, and carried them to Stanton's house, where we divided them into three parts, and cast lots. Williams and I took our shares; after giving Stanton out of my share eight or nine pounds worth of goods for a mare, and hiding the goods under two corn stacks and under a barn, about five miles from Stanton's house, we set off for Voluntown, there were apprehended and brought back to Hopkington, where Stanton, I and my wife were tried

for breaking open the mill; Stanton's wife and Williams were admitted as State's evidence: accordingly I was sentenced to receive 20 lashes and my wife 10 (though she was innocent)—I paid the fine by giving up part of my clothes, then committed to Newport gaol, tried for breaking Potter's shop, found guilty, and received the sentence of death. —And the Lord have mercy upon me."

Two indictments were brought against Mount in the April session, 1791, of the "Superior Court of Judicature Court of Assizes and General Jail Delivery" held at the Court House at Little Rest.[3] The first was for feloniously stealing goods from Walter Buddington, trader of New London. On this is the following indorsement: "Will Prosecut this Bill of Indictment no further D. Updike Attny Gen[l]." The second bill was for breaking and entering with force and arms the house of Joseph Potter in Westerly and Burglariously (sic) to spoil and rob and the same goods Feloniously & Burglariously to steal take and carry away." This is endorsed: "Prisoner Pleads not guilty Verdict Guilty."

The sheriff of Newport was then ordered to transfer Mount together with his associates, Stanton and Williams and his wife, Catherine Mount, from the Newport jail to Little Rest jail. This having been done, the trial was set and held on April 8, 1791, before Justices Sylvester Robinson, Walter Cooke and Ezekiel Gardiner, Jr.

Mount's counsel was David Howell, assisted by Elisha R. Potter. The jury was composed of Samuel Perry, foreman; Christopher Champlin, Frederick Gardner, Nathan Gardner, Jr., Thomas Congdon, Stephen Watson, Jr., Benj. Watson, Jr., Clarke Hopkins, Timothy Lawton, Hazard Browning, and Tennent Tifft, Jr. There is no account of the trial, save that, as before stated, Mount pleaded "not guilty." The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the court, after the usual question to Mount regarding a possible statement on his part, pronounced that "he be returned to Newport Jail and from thence to some suitable Place in the Town of South Kingston in the County of

[3]Now Kingston.

Washington at the discretion of the Sheriff on Friday the twenty seventh Day of May between the Hours of twelve and three o'Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day and there be hanged by the Neck till he be dead."

According to the pronouncement of the court, Mount was at once returned to the Newport jail to spend the intervening weeks prior to his sentence. These weeks he enlivened for both himself and his jailers by two attempts at escape; the last "was so well planned and so near taking Effect, that it failed rather from an unaccountable Absence of Mind at the Critical Moment than through any Defect in the Contrivence." Mount is reported to have made a statement after this lamentable miscarriage of his plan, that "I have broke every Prison in which I hitherto have been confined—but defeated twice in this I see the Hand of God." With a broken man the precepts of Smith's "Convict's Visitor" were bearing fruit, and it was probably during this period that he dictated his "Confession."

Mount was returned to Little Rest Jail shortly prior to his execution. It is related that one of his attorneys, Hon. Elisha R. Potter, spent the last night with him to hearten him. There is evidence that Potter and many others believed that the sentence of death was far too severe a penalty for burglary, and that there was considerable sympathy for Mount, although the following account, published in the *U. S. Chronicle,* June 16, 1791, should be taken with reservations.

"Passing over many Things relative to his Behavior while in the Prison at Little Rest, and during the Interval of his leaving the Prison, and going to the Place of Execution, suffice it to be remarked, that firm to the last, his Mind averted from Sublimary Things and steadfastly fixed on God and ascending up to Heaven in Holy Extacy of Prayer he declared his *'Willingness to be offered up a Sacrifice to divine & human Justice—he forgave all men in Hopes of finding Forgiveness with God'*—and after he was turned off—he was distinctly heard to breath his last in Prayer—'Lord have Mercy on me—Lord—' here he was sufficated."

"Multitudes mourned and bewailed him—no Triumph over his melancholy End disgraced the Feelings of Humanity—for the Space of a Quarter of an Hour nothing was to be heard but Prayers mixed with Sighs and Groans. Every Face displayed the Signs of being affected with the Solemnities of his Death and most tender Sympathies of Woe trickled down almost every Cheek."[4]

So died Thomas Mount on that May day in the meadow at the foot of Kingston hill. According to James N. Arnold he was buried nearby, but no trace of the grave can be found to-day.

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[4]There was, from all reports, a large crowd present at the execution, such an event drawing people from all the countryside. The story is told that one woman, finding herself hampered by her baby, gave the child to the care of an Indian, while she pressed nearer the scaffold. She never saw the child again.

Notes

The following persons have been elected to membership in the Society:

Mrs. Herbert E. Maine Mr. C. Prescott Knight
Mrs. George R. Ramsbottom Mr. Edward A. Sherman
Mr. Harold C. Lyman

An extensive manuscript genealogy of the Waterman family, which was compiled by William H. Waterman, was recently presented to the Society by Mr. Henry Waterman.

Mr. Matt B. Jones of Boston gave to the Society part of the collection known as the Governor Nicholas Cooke Papers. Mr. Jones retained the papers of national interest, but gave the Society those relating to local matters. The collection of papers, as a whole, is to be printed in the American Antiquarian Society's Publications.

Col. H. Anthony Dyer presented to the Society the tall Windsor chair formerly used by the organist of the First Baptist Church.

The Society of Colonial Wars, at their December Court, issued a booklet on "The Narragansett Country," by Harry Lyman Koopman.

A new *Plat Book of Providence* has been published by the G. M. Hopkins Co. of Philadelphia.

Privateer Ships and Sailors, by Howard M. Chapin, contains three chapters on Rhode Island privateers, which cover the period from 1649 to 1712. There were no Rhode Island privateers from 1712 to 1739, and the volume entitled *Rhode Island Privateers in King George's War,* which was published by the Society last autumn, covers the period from 1739 to 1748, thus completing the record of Rhode Island privateering from its beginning to the opening of naval activities of the Old French and Indian War in 1756.

An illustrated article on John Goddard, the cabinet maker, appeared in the February, 1927, issue of the *Antiquarian.*

The January Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society contains a paper on David Melville and his early experiments with gas in Newport, by Edith May Tilley.

The Date of the Death of Roger Williams

The date of Roger Williams' death is not known exactly, but a note in the *R. I. H. S. Proceedings,* 1884-5, p. 47, shows that he died between January 16, 1682-3, when he signed a deed, and April 25, 1683, the date of a deed which was drawn up after his death. Mr. Ernest Flagg, in his Genealogical Notes, 1926 p. 244, prints an item which shows that Williams had died before March 15th. The item is as follows:

> "In the Winthrop Manuscripts (unpublished), vol. 10, page 4, in the custody of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is a letter from William Adams to J. Richards, dated March 15, 1682-3, which contains this sentence: 'Mr. Williams of Providence is lately deceased.' "

Photostat copy in R. I. H. S. M., vol. 15, p. 421.

Other references to Roger Williams' death and burial will be found in Book Notes, VII:46, X:289, XXIV:57, XXIX:148; R. I. H. S. C., XIV:130; and the Report on the Burial Place of Roger Williams, issued by the Rhode Island Historical Society.

A Note on William Coddington

The report, signed on 16 Sept. 1652 at the New Netherlands by H. van Dyck and L. Van Dincklage described Coddington's negotiations with the Dutch in April 1652, is as follows:

> "I cannot omit stating here that the late Commissary Adriaen Keyser and Augustin Heerman going hence to Rhode Island in New England, on the 14th April, Ensign George Baxter gave them a letter for William Coddington, Governor there, which letter the Court or Assembly of the people of Rhode Island intercepted and opened, accusing the bearers of it with the Governor and their Director, the above named Tienhoven and Baxter, of conspiracy and treason against the State of New England, inasmuch as, among other things, the Director in said letter offered Governor Coddington some soldiers to be employed against the Inhabitants of Rhode Island. Wherefore the bearers of the letter were obliged to give bail in the sum of 100lb. sterling until their innocence should be proved. Whereupon the aforesaid persons returning hither with copy of the letter, complained to the Director and Council of the aforesaid Baxter's writing. They were illy received, finally obtaining, after great trouble, a certificate of their ignorance from the above named Council and Select men. And instead of the Director, Tienhoven and Baxter purging themselves as being innocent of disturbing the peace between our neighbors, or at least punishing the writer of the letter, the matter was disregarded and the Director, Tienhoven and Baxter still remain great amigos and companions daily resorting each other's company to the great suspicion and probability of what is above related."*

*D. C. H. N. Y. 1—497-8.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Income Account for the Year 1926

Receipts

Annual Dues		$2,140 00
Dividends and Interest		4,690 90
Rental of Rooms		150 00
State Appropriation	$1,500 00	
State Appropriation, extra	300 00	
		1,800 00
		$8,780 90

Expenditures

Binding	$240 00
Books	704 77
Electric Light and Gas	54 93
Exhibitions	116 45
Expenses	220 39
Heating	350 00
Insurance	225 00
Janitorial Services	114 00
Newspaper Account	190 35
Publication	854 09
Salaries	3,989 92
Supplies	210 39
Telephone	58 05
Water	8 00
Grounds and Buildings	5 84
	$7,342 18
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures	1,438 72
	$8,780 90

Statement of Condition, December 31, 1926

Assets

Grounds and Building			$25,000 00
Investments:			
	Bonds		
$4,000	Government of Dominion Canada, 5s, 1952	$4,003 91	
5,000	New York Edison Co., 6½s, 1941	5,447 85	
4,000	Cedars Rapids Mfg. & Power Co., 5s, 1953	3,228 88	
3,000	Cleveland Elec. Illuminating Co., 5s, 1939	2,565 42	
1,000	Commonwealth Edison Co., 5s, 1943	965 25	
1,000	Denver Gas & Elec. Co., 5s, 1949	950 00	
1,000	Columbus Rwy. Power & Light Co., 5s, 1940	970 00	
1,000	Western Electric Co., 5s, 1944	998 17	
300	United Electric Rys. Co., Prior Lien, 4s, 1946	231 27	
3,000	Central Mfg. District	3,000 00	
4,000	61 Broadway Bldg., 1st Mtge., 5½s, 1950	4,000 00	
4,000	Minnesota Power & Light Co., 1st 5s, 1955	3,930 00	
4,000	Monongahela Valley Traction Co., 1st 5s, 1942	3,685 00	
	Stocks		
50 shs.	New York Central Railroad Co	3,645 12	
111 shs.	Pennsylvania Railroad Co	7,188 45	
30 shs.	Lehigh Valley Railroad Co	2,112 50	
6 shs.	Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co	241 85	
40 shs.	Milwaukee Elec. Ry. & Light Co., Pfd.	3,900 00	
64 shs.	American Tel. & Tel. Co	8,023 61	
60 shs.	Providence Gas Co	5,005 68	
15 shs. 30 shs.	Providence National Bank Merchants' Natl. Bank Bldg.	1,800 00	
45 shs.	Blackstone Canal National Bank	1,050 00	
50 shs.	Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Ry. Co., Com.	6,168 75	
10 shs.	Union Tank Car Co., 7% Pfd.	1,050 25	
	Mortgage, P. A. & H. A. Cory	2,975 00	
	Industrial Trust Company, Participation	734 52	
			77,871 48
Cash on hand:			
	Principal	$1,377 54	
	Income	1,860 81	
			3,238 35
			$106,109 83

Liabilities

Equipment Fund		$25,000 00
Permanent Endowment Fund:		
Samuel M. Noyes	$12,000 00	
Henry J. Steere	10,000 00	
James H. Bugbee	6,000 00	
Charles H. Smith	5,000 00	
Charles W. Parsons	4,000 00	
William H. Potter	3,000 00	
Esek A. Jillson	2,000 00	
John Wilson Smith	1,000 00	
William G. Wild	1,000 00	
Charles C. Hoskins	1,000 00	
Charles H. Atwood	1,000 00	
		46,000 00
Publication Fund:		
Robert P. Brown	$2,000 00	
Ira B. Peck	1,000 00	
William Gammell	1,000 00	
Albert J. Jones	1,000 00	
William Ely	1,000 00	
Julia Bullock	500 00	
Charles H. Smith	100 00	
		6,600 00
George L. Shepley Fund		5,000 00
Life Membership		5,100 00
Franklin Lyceum Memorial Fund		734 52
Book Fund		3,012 41
Reserve Fund		617 13
Surplus		12,184 96
Surplus Income Account		1,860 81
		$106,109 83

Principal Account for the Year 1926

Receipts

Sold $3,400 United States 4th Liberty Loan @ 102 17/32 and bkge.	$3,483 68
Sold $1,000 United States 2nd Liberty Loan @ 100 27/37 and bkge.	1,007 69
Sold 75 shs. New York Central Railroad Co. @ 118⅜ and bkge.	8,854 88
Sold 6 shs. Narragansett Elec. Lighting Co. @ 86	576 00
Reserve Fund	760 71
Life Membership	100 00
	$14,722 96
Balance, January 1, 1926	6,695 92
	$21,418 88

Payments

Bought 9 shs. American Tel. & Tel. Co. @ par	$900 00
Bought 50 shs. Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry. Co. @ 123⅛	6,168 75
Bought 4,000 61 Broadway Bldg. 1st Mtge. S. F. 5½s 1950 @ par	4,000 00
Bought 4,000 Minnesota Power & Light Co., 1st 5s 1955 @ 98¼	3,930 00
Bought 4,000 Monongahela Valley Traction Co., 1st 5s 1942 @ 92⅛	3,685 00
Reserve Fund	1,357 59
Balance	1,377 54
	$21,418 88

Respectfully submitted

G. A. HARRINGTON

Treasurer

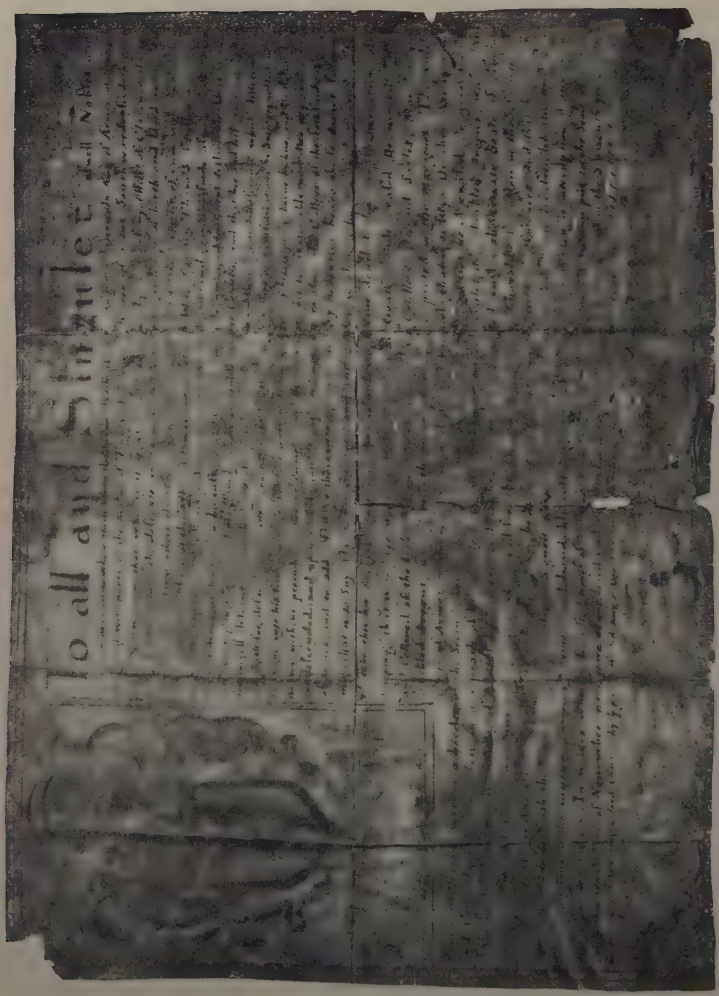
Colonial Heraldry

Cranston

The original manuscript parchment confirmatory grant of arms, issued in 1724 by Lyon, King of Arms, to Samuel Cranston, of Newport, Governor of Rhode Island, is now preserved in the archives of the Rhode Island Historical Society, and is reproduced in this article. The letters, relating to the issuance of this document, are also in the archives of the Rhode Island Historical Society. This interesting correspondence was printed in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* for October, 1926. A facsimile reproduction of the Cranston grant of arms was engraved and printed in 1893.

The arms are "Gules, three cranes within a bordure embattled argent." The "bordure" or border is an augmentation for difference. These arms were used on the gravestone of Governor Samuel Cranston, who died at Newport in 1727. (See *Her. Jour.*, III:59. The pedigree questioned by the editor of the *Heraldic Journal* is given upon the grant of arms.)

Rome



Patent of Arms issued to George Thorold in 1631.
From original in the Society's Library

The only other grant of arms to a resident of the colony of Rhode Island which has come to my notice is the grant of "Argent, a fesse pean, in chief a lion passant gardant gules" to George Rome of Newport on July 21, 1772. Edmondson's *Complete Body of Heraldry,* appendix, gives it "to ——— Roome of Newport in America" (Her. Jour., III:47), but it was easy enough to identify this man as George Rome. The Rev. Daniel Goodwin, in his notes to Updike's "Narragansett Church" (II:316), tells us:

> "The antique pronunciation of the word Rome as if it were spelled with a circumflexed *o* is not, as is well known, peculiar to it, when used as a family name. Formerly, especially among actors, the only elegant pronunciation of the Italian capital was *Roome.* Until within the last thirty years a descendant of some of George Rome's slaves, still living in North Kingstown, was known as Betty *Roome.*"

A biography of George Rome can be found in Mason's *Annals of Trinity Church, Newport* (1:154). Romes Point, North Kingstown, R. I., was named after him.

Thorold

In the archives of the Rhode Island Historical Society is a document which, at first glance, would seem to be an original grant of arms. It is dated November 10, in the seventh year of the reign of Charles, meaning of course Charles I (i. e., 1631). The handwriting on the document is not seventeenth century work, but must have been done in the eighteenth century. It may be an eighteenth century copy, or it may be an original seventeenth century document re-inked in the eighteenth century, because the original ink had faded out or had been washed off by accident.

It is a confirmation of arms by Clarenceulx, King of Arms, to George Thorold of Boston in Lincolnshire, England, of "Or

three Goats rampant[1] sable, within a border of the Second." The border is probably an augmentation for difference. The crest, which Burke does not give, is given as "A Goat's Head erased or, armed sable and collored of the same."

On the reverse of the parchment is a manuscript note made by Ezra Stiles, President of Yale College. It is dated Newport, July 14, 1773, and records a statement made by Mrs. Ann Sabin in regard to her descent from the George Thorold mentioned in the document. According to Mrs. Sabin, the George Thorold, who received the confirmation of arms, left three sons: Robert, who died unmarried; Sir George, who became Lord Mayor of London; and William, who emigrated to Boston in New England, where he died in 1709, leaving a son George, born about 1660, who died in New York in 1721. This George married the widow Ann Peacock at Boston and had three children born in Boston: Dorothy, born April 15, 1702, married ——— Archer, lived at Newport, and had no children; Ann, born December 24, 1703, married ——— Sabin, lived in Newport, and had a daughter, Ann, who married Judah Cartwright, and had fourteen children; and Mildred, born in 1705, married ——— Pettet,[2] was living in New York in 1773, and had two sons.

The Lincolnshire Pedigrees, published in the Harleian Society Publications, vol. 52, give these arms and the pedigree of Thorold of Boston (page 976). The second George in the pedigree may be the George of the grant of arms. According to Ezra Stiles' note, Mrs. Ann Sabin used, at Newport, before 1773, a seal bearing these Thorold arms of her father on a letter written to a Captain Coleman of London.

H. M. C.

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[1]Given as "rampant," in the patent, but as "salient" by Burke.
[2]Spelling uncertain.